UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO AN INTERREGIONAL PROJECT

(INT/92/202) - Strengthening Developing Country Capacities in Convention/Protocol, Evaluation and Negotiations

Date of approval by the AC: 1/	22 January 1992
Expected duration:	One year
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$350 000 Source of funds: SPR
Total UNDP budget:	$350 000

Project background

UNDP's action plan and strategy to meet the increasing demands in the area of environment and sustainable development have both a national and an international focus. At the national level, efforts have focussed on better integrating environment and development considerations in UNDP's technical co-operation programmes and projects and in utilizing UNDP's Environment Management Guidelines and the Sustainable Development Network. Several developing countries have been assisted in preparation of national reports for the UNCED preparatory process.

This project focusses on the international level where UNDP has been helping advance environmental policy. Under the project (INT/91/714) Country Ozone Protection Initiatives, $60,000 was spent on two activities; the first a survey of present and expected consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) in Indonesia and relevant policy implications of not signing the Montreal Protocol, and the second a joint UNDP/USEPA/Norway reconnaissance mission to Poland to assess ODS use and to recommend strategies so Poland can comply with Montreal Protocol provisions. UNDP is also supporting a task force that will recommend institutional mechanisms for expanded tropical forestry research.

A recent development has been the start of negotiating processes for several new environmental conventions and/or protocols. It is anticipated that some may be ready for approval at UNCED (1-12 June 1992, Rio de Janiero) while others may require a longer negotiating schedule. The relevant areas include climate change, forestry and biodiversity. There are also several ODS-using countries that have not yet signed the Montreal Protocol (e.g. India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Yemen); and requests for preliminary technical and policy assistance have been received from some of them.

1/ This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

Description of project

The project will strengthen developing country capacities in Convention/Protocol evaluation and negotiation through:

(1) Ozone Layer Initiatives under:(a) Non-signatory countries: several countries are in the process of evaluating whether they should sign the Montreal Protocol and the resulting implications. These will include both larger ODS consumers (e.g. Algeria, India, Indonesia,. Pakistan) and smaller consumers (e.g. Kuwait, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Vanuatu, Yemen). These countries will be assisted through reconnaissance and/or technical missions to help determine the needed data and policy implications framework so that an informed decision can be taken; and (b) Poland: the report of the initial reconnaissance mission was excellent in both substantive and technical terms. The Government and Polish industry were not, however, able to provide the mission with adequate cost details and a short follow-up joint mission (UNDP/USEPA) is required to finalize cost estimates of the strategies recommended by the initial mission.

(2) Evaluation and Negotiation Processes for New Environmental Conventions and/or Protocols under: (a) Climate change negotiations: The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (INC/FCCC) will be held during 18-28 February 1992 in New York. Following discussions between the Chairman of INC/FCCC, UNDP has agreed to support substantive preparations for these negotiations in selected developing countries as well as participation of developing country representatives at the fifth and subsequent sessions of INC/FCCC. Based on what is agreed to at UNCED, additional post-UNCED support may very likely be required; and (b) other negotiations: Other conventions/protocols to be discussed at UNCED will include those on biodiversity and forestry. Requests for UNDP assistance in the substantive preparations for these negotiations are being received; and limited provision has been made to cover these requests.

Inputs

UNDP will utilize a mix of international and national experts, UN Volunteers, international/regional/national NGOs and, where applicable, TCDC elements. The training component will include essential representation of selected developing country participants at the negotiating sessions.

Financial data

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Personnel	220 000
Training	100 000
Miscellaneous	30 000
Total	350 000

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